

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W
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R 241449Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2678
USDOC WASHINGTON DC
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE
AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

UNCLAS MANAMA 1445

STATE FOR NEA/ARP

USDOC FOR CAGNE: PETER HALE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : BEXP, PFOR, BA, US

SUBJECT : BAHRAINI HOUSING PLANS: REQUEST FOR DIALOGUE

1. DR. ABD AL LATIF KANOO, UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HOUSING, HAS APPROACHED EMBASSY TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE IN COMMUNICATING WITH AMERICAN HOUSING CONSULTANT AND CONSTRUCTION FIRMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ALREADY ACTIVE IN THE REGION, SO THAT GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN CAN BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS URGENT HOUSING PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT IS STILL PLANNING TO CONSTRUCT ABOUT TWO THOUSAND HOUSES ANNUALLY FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS. INITIALLY GOB PLANS TO BUDGET AS MUCH AS \$50 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR THE PROJECT.

2. AS CAGNE DIRECTOR HALE WILL RECALL FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS AT THE EMBASSY DURING HIS FALL VISIT, AND AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, HOUSING (ALONG WITH INFLATION) IS PERHAPS THE MAJOR POLITICAL/ECONONMIC ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN. AND ITS SENSE OF URGENCY, IF A LITTLE DIFFUSED
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AT THIS POINT, IS REAL. EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT

TO BE RESPONSIVE AND WOULD APPRECIATE COMMERCE HANDLING THIS TRADE OPPORTUNITY WITH A SENSE OF PRIORITY. THE BAHRAINIS ARE AWARE THAT SOME AMERICAN HOUSING CONSTRUCTION FIRMS OPERATE IN SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN AND WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO TALK WITH THEM. FOR AMERICAN FIRMS INTERESTED IN SECURING A POSITION IN THE GULF REGION, WHERE SEVERAL STATES HAVE PLANNED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, THIS COULD BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH BONA FIDES.

3. IN THE INTERIM. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE WORD ON THE STATUS OF THE PLANNED HOUSING CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS EXHIBITION IN JIDDA IN THE SPRING. IF EXHIBITION IS STILL IN THE WORKS, WE RECOMMEND THAT EXHIBITORS BE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT BAHRAIN EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THEIR VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN OFFICIALS BE INVITED TO THE EXHIBITION. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS ON HOW WE MIGHT BEST RESPOND TO THIS IMPORTANT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY.
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